

tokioka2-Robert

From: Brooks <boutland@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:18 AM
To: vmitestimony
Subject: HB1153

Aloha,

Please accept my testimony in support of HB1153 being heard in room 312 at 0905, 9 February 2015.

Chairman Ito, Vice Chariman Tokioka, members of the Committee;

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the bill being heard by this Committee today.

Since 2008, efforts to get approval for a full exemption of the Annual Vehicle Registration fees have survived the scrutiny of all Committees having cognizance over this particular bill by an almost unanimous vote, but have failed to get it passed!

Most of the States across the country have already provided this full exemption to the permanently disabled Veterans residing in their states. I do not believe that the State of Hawaii wants to be known as the only state that declares they cannot afford to lose the revenue that this exemption would cause!

If any group of residents of Hawaii deserve this exemption, it is those Veterans who are permanently disabled as a result of their service in our Armed Forces.

All the facts and figures regarding the impact of this exemption are finally available. Last year's disapproval was based on an unrealistically high figure representing lost revenue. In actuality, the undeterminable estimate of the impact is about half the figure which was provided the Finance Committees last year.

It is respectfully requested that this small group of permanently disabled Veterans be granted this full exemption during this session of the Legislature.

Very respectfully & Mahalo nui loa,

Brooks W. Outland, Senior Chief U.S. Navy(Ret) 87-1057 Huamoa Street, Waianae, HI 96792
Ph. (808) 744-2945.

From: Brooks <boutland@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 5:23 AM
To: vmitestimony
Subject: HB1153

Aloha,

Please accept my testimony in SUPPORT of HB1153 :

TESTIMONY RE EXEMPTION BILL –HB1153

Chairman Ito, Vice Chairman Tokioka , members of the VMI Committee;

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the bill being heard by this Committee today in Room 312 at 9:05 on Monday February 9, 2015.

Since 2008, efforts to get approval for a full exemption of the Annual Vehicle Registration fees have survived the scrutiny of all Committees having cognizance over this particular bill by an almost unanimous vote, but have failed to get it passed!

Most of the States across the country have already provided this full exemption to the permanently disabled Veterans residing in their states. I do not believe that the State of Hawaii wants to be known as the only state that declares they cannot afford to lose the revenue that this exemption would cause!

If any group of residents of Hawaii deserve this exemption, it is those Veterans who are permanently disabled as a result of their service in our Armed Forces.

All the facts and figures regarding the impact of this exemption are finally available. Last year's disapproval was based on an unrealistically high figure representing lost revenue. In actuality, the undeterminable estimate of the impact is about half the figure which was provided the Finance Committees last year.

It is respectfully requested that this small group of permanently disabled Veterans be granted this full exemption during this session of the Legislature.

Very respectfully & Mahalo nui loa,

Brooks W. Outland, Senior Chief U.S. Navy(Ret) 87-1057 Huamoa Street, Waianae, HI 96792
Ph. (808) 744-2945.

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 5:07 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1153 on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM
Attachments: Support of HB1153 02-06-15.docx

HB1153

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Date: February 06, 20145

To: Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Strong Support for HB1153

As the Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, we support HB1153. It is proper to allow 100 % disabled veterans to be exempted from the annual vehicle registration fee for one vehicle.

We urge that you pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Exempt motor vehicle registration for disabled veterans

BILL NUMBER: SB 343; HB 1153 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Gabbard, Espero, Inouye, Shimabukuro and 3 Democrats; HB by Aquino, Cullen, Har, Johanson, LoPresti, Takumi, Yamane, Yamashita and 1 Democrat

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 249 to provide that any totally and permanently disabled veteran who is: (1) a resident of Hawaii; (2) other than dishonorably discharged from the U.S. uniformed armed forces; (3) determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected 100% disability rating for compensation or a service-connected disability rating of 100%; (4) determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having an annual income of not more than _____; and (5) in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed forces, shall not be required to pay any state motor vehicle registration fees provided the exemption shall not extend to vehicles used for commercial purposes, nor to more than one vehicle of the disabled veteran.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval; applicable to motor vehicle registrations occurring on or after September 1, 2015

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure proposes to exempt one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by disabled veterans who are residents of the state from the state motor vehicle registration fee. The legislature by Act 141, SLH 2008, exempted from the motor vehicle weight taxes, one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by members of the national guard, reserves, active duty armed services, including the coast guard, who are residents of Hawaii.

The motor vehicle weight tax and registration fees are user charges designed to recover the cost of construction and maintenance of Hawaii's highway system. It should be remembered that all motorists use the state highways and should, therefore, lend a hand in paying for good and safe roads. Note well, that any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay. Motorists who will have to pick up the additional costs created by this proposed exemption should hold those who would propose such an exemption responsible for raising their taxes.

Exemptions based solely on physical condition or age have no place in the tax law and represent poor tax policy. So while the exemption would provide relief to a disabled veteran, a single mom making minimum wage, barely making ends meet, must continue to pay these fees. As such, this proposal cannot be justified. Given that this proposal has been continually introduced, it is hard to imagine that lawmakers have not asked the question as to why they believe that a disabled veteran is financially incapable of paying his or her fair share to maintain the state's highways.

Digested 2/6/15